

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 /130 W
-----301030Z 029794 /17

R 300857Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6841
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 5829

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EEWT, SN, ID
SUBJECT: LOS: TRI-STATE SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING ON MALACCA
STRAITS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7474

1. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLITICAL DIVISION FOR SEA, PETER CHAN,
WHO ATTENDED SUBJECT MEETING IN JAKARTA LAST WEEK, ON DECEMBER
30 PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH SOME HINTS AS TO ITS OUTCOME.
CHAN DESCRIBED GOS AS BEING "QUITE PLEASED" WITH MEETING. HE
SAID THAT A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME (TSS) HAD BEEN "DELINEATED"
FOR DIIP WATER CHANNEL OF MALACCA STRAITS AND STRAITS OF
SINGAPORE.

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2. CHAN CONFIRMED THAT A COMPROMISE ON THE UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE
(UKC) LIMIT HAD BEEN REACHED BUT DECLINED TO PROVIDE A FIGURE.
HE SUGGESTED THAT WE COULD GUESS AT THE FIGURE DECIDED UPON.
(COMMENTS: OUR GUESS IS 3.5 METERS.)
CHAN OBSERVED THAT AGREED UKC WOULD APPLY TO ENTIRE CHANNEL
RATHER THAN VARY FROM SEGMENT TO SEGMENT.

3. CHAN SAID FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WOULD BE CALLED "FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR" TO LOOK AT PRODUCT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING. CHAN REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON TIMING OF MEETING OTHER THAN TO SAY IT WOULD BE AS SOON AS FOREIGN MINISTERS SCHEDULES PERMIT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON WHETHER TSS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR APPROVAL, CHAN SAID, AFTER BRIEFLY HESITATING, THAT IMCO VIEWS WOULD BE SOLICITED "AS FAR AS THIS IS PRACTICABLE".

5. COMMENT: WHILE TSS HAS PROBABLY MOVED CLOSER TO BECOMING A REALITY AS A RESULT OF SUBJECT MEETING, WE WONDER WHETHER ALL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THREE COSTAL STATES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. INDEFINITE TIMING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING MAY HAVE MORE TO DO WITH SETTling ANY MINOR DEFERENCES STILL OUTSTANDING THAN IT DOES WITH FINDING ACCEPTABLE DATES. CHAN STRESSED THAT TSS DEALT SOLELY WITH SAFETY OF NAVIGATION ISSUES, WHICH, AS HE POINTED OUT, ARE AN URGENT MATTER. HE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT STATUS OF STRAITS HAD NEVER BEEN SUBJECT OF THESE MEETINGS AND WOULD BE LEFT FOR RESOLUTION IN LOS TREATY CONTEXT. END COMMENT.

6. AFTER PRECEEDING WAS DICTATED, ARTICLE ON TSS APPEARED IN DECMEBER 30 NEW NATION. BASED ON LOCAL SOURCES, THE ARTICLE STATED THAT OFFICIALS "HAVE REACHED AGREE-
MENT ON SEVERAL ASPECTS ON THE STRAITS OF MALACCA ISSUE" AND HAD "CONCLUDED A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT". THE STORY WENT
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ON TO STATE THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL TO FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO WILL PROBABLY MEET "ATER FEBRUARY WHEN THE JAPANESE TEAM OF EXPERTS SUBMITS THE RESULTS OF A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY ON THE STRAITS". AN UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT AGREE-
MENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE UKC, THE SPEED OF TANKERS PASSING THROUGH THE STRAITS AND THE DRAUGHT OF SUPER TANKERS. ARTICLE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT RECOMMENDED SPEED "IS BELIEVED TO BE 12 KNOTS" AND "VESSELS WITH DRAUGHT OF MORE THAN 15 METERS WILL BE CONSIDERED DEEP DRAUGHT VESSELS ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITION AGREED AT THE MEETING.
GRANT

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